MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., March 8, 1928.

The eighth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1928 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Thursday, March 8, 1928.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Delano,
Mr. Garfield,
Mr. Vitale,
also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS: The minutes of the meeting held January 6, 1928, were approved. The minutes of the meeting held February 6, 1928, were approved, with the following change on page 3, line 14, so as to read, "The approach should 'shoot' at the Mansion and that---".

2. RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION OF MR. MOWBRAY: The Commission adopted the following Minute, as an expression of their appreciation of Mr. Mowbray:

"The Commission of Fine Arts place on their records this Minute:

H. Siddons Mowbray was born in Alexandria, Egypt, August 5, 1858. He was educated at the United States Military Academy; but the year 1878 found him studying painting in Paris under Bonnat. Returning to this country he won the Clark prize and became an Associate of the National Academy of Design in 1888, and an Academician two years later.

When the University Club of New York undertook to decorate their Library according to the highest standards of mural work, so that the room should be at once a present joy and also an inspiration to future achievement, Mr. Mowbray was sent to Rome to study the work of Pinturicchio in the Borgia Apartments of the Vatican. The result was not a transcription or even a translation; it was rather an original work of art (or better, a series of original designs) based on the greatest of precedents. During these years (1903-04) Mr. Mowbray, as the Director of the American Academy in Rome, had the satisfaction of assisting materially in the official recognition of that institution as one of the national academies. Noteworthy

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Mr. Moore, Chairman,
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Mr. Caffield,
Mr. Vitale,
also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS: The minutes of the meeting held January 6, 1928, were approved. The minutes of the meeting held February 6, 1928, were approved, with the following change on page 3, line 14, so as to read, "The approach should 'about' at the Mansion and that---".

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also are his decorations in the Pierpont Morgan Library, in New York, in both the original building and the one just completed.

Appointed by President Wilson as the fifth painter member of the Commission of Fine Arts in the succession of Millet, Blashfield, Weir, and W. S. Kendall, Mr. Mowbray served seven years, during which time his seat at meetings was rarely vacant. Perhaps his training at West Point added peculiar zest to his years of work as the representative of the Commission of Fine Arts on the Interdepartmental Committee on the Standardization of the United States flag. To him standardization meant satisfactory proportions among the flag's elements; but particularly it meant lifting the colors of the national emblem from commercialized deadness into stimulating and glorious vitality. He had virtually completed his portion of the task and was reluctantly suggesting the appointment of his successor.

In manner quiet and modest to the verge of retirement, Mr. Mowbray thought out his problems with intelligence and thoroughness. When he had arrived at a solution he maintained his convictions with determination. He was slow to offer opinions, but those who knew him sought his advice, being certain to find it well-founded, well-considered and fundamentally sound. Expediency never swerved him. Only five days after his return to his home from a meeting of the Commission he loved so much and served so faithfully, he was taken suddenly from this life."

Mr. Moore read a letter received from Mrs. Mowbray, in which set forth how Mr. Mowbray enjoyed being a member of the Commission, and of his keen interest to serve the Government in matters pertaining to the fine arts.

3. MONUMENT TO SAMUEL GOMPERS: The Commission were in conference with Mr. Frank Morrison, Secretary of the American Federation of Labor, regarding the monument proposed to Samuel Gompers, which is to be erected in Washington under authority of Congress, by Act approved March 5, 1928 (Public Resolution No.11, 70th Congress), as follows:

"RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to select a suitable site and to grant permission to William Green, president, and Frank Morrison, secretary, of the American Federation of Labor, for the erection, as a gift to the people of the United States, on public grounds of the United States in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, other than those of the Capitol, the Library of Congress, the Mall, and White House, of a stone monument in memory of Samuel Gompers: PROVIDED, That the site chosen and the design of the memorial shall be

approved by the Joint Committee on the Library, with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, that it shall be erected under the supervision of the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, and that the United States shall be put to no expense in or by the erection of the monument."

Mr. Morrison said that the American Federation of Labor was looking to the Commission of Fine Arts for advice as to the kind of monument to be erected; that they understood the Commission had favored a site on a triangle along Massachusetts Avenue between Tenth and Eleventh Street, N.W.; and that they were planning to raise $100,000 for it. Attention was called to a plot of ground at 9th and Massachusetts Avenue, opposite the American Federation of Labor Building and adjacent to the M. E. Church South, but Mr. Morrison said this in his opinion was not large enough. The monument is to be in stone and is to symbolize labor; that as a leader of Labor they felt Mr. Gompers is deserving of a worthy monument in the National Capital.

The Commission said the question is to select a designer, who could advise as to the kind of monument in relation to the site. Mr. Vitale recommended the immediate selection of an adviser who could confer with the Committee and work out the problem before them, to establish a "parti" for the monument, discuss the site, and then decide finally upon the cost. A competition, Mr. Vitale said, would not be satisfactory, as the best artistic talent of the country would not participate in it. The Commission agreed with him in this.

Mr. Morrison asked if the Commission would write a letter to him, setting forth this suggestion, so that he could take it up with Mr. Green and other members of the Committee. Mr. Moore said such a letter could be sent, and that the Commission would be glad to help them all they could in their project.

4. HAWAII SESQUICENTENNIAL COIN: Mr. Moore read the following letter from Hon. W. R. Farrington, Governor of Hawaii, dated March 6, 1928, asking the

approved by the Joint Committee on the Library, with the duties of the Commission of Fine Arts, that it will be erected under the supervision of the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, and that the United States shall be at no expense in or by the erection of the monument."

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Mr. Morrison asked if the Commission would write a letter to him, setting forth this suggestion, so that he could take it up with Mr. Green and other members of the Committee. Mr. Moore said such a letter could be sent, and that the Commission would be glad to help them all they could in their project.

4. FAVOR RECONSIDERATION OF CASE: Mr. Moore read the following letter from Hon. W. M. Farrington, Governor of Hawaii, dated March 3, 1926, urging the

Commission of Fine Arts to procure a competent designer for their Sesquicentennial Coin:

> "In confirmation of our conference of this morning, I would appreciate your taking up through the appropriate channels the selection of a sculptor who will perfect the design for the coin authorized under Act of Congress to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the Hawaiian Islands by Captain James Cook.
>
> The payment for such work as is necessary in completing the design has been guaranteed by the Sesquicentennial Commission created under an act of the Legislature of Hawaii at its session of 1927. The Commission is favorably disposed to the sketch now in the possession of the Delegate to Congress, the Honorable Victor S. K. Houston. I think you have a pencil copy of this sketch.
>
> The sesquicentennial celebration will be held during the week of October 28, 1928. It is, therefore, highly desirable that the design be completed as soon as practical. Please be assured that the appropriate officers of the Territory of Hawaii will be pleased to cooperate with you and follow your suggestions in this matter."

Mr. Moore said that Governor Farrington had recently called at the Office of the Commission, when the question of this coin was discussed, and that Governor Farrington had expressed himself agreeable to the payment of $1,500 for the production of the coin,--$1,000 for the artist, and $500 for dies,etc. The obverse of the coin is to show the head of Captain Cook and for the reverse a native Hawaiian has been suggested.

The Commission, after considering the names of artists who might produce a satisfactory design, decided upon Mr. Chester Beach, sculptor of New York, and recommended that the matter be taken up with him. Mr. Moore said that Governor Farrington has asked prompt action in this matter so as to secure the coins in time for the celebration. (Exhibit A and see also A-1)

5. ROCK CREEK PARK SIGNS: Mr. C. S. Robb of this city appeared before the Commission with a sketch for a street sign for the new development adjacent to Rock Creek Park and Sixteenth Street Heights, near the District Line.Mr.Robb said the community has been careful to see that good houses are built, and has

Commission of Fine Arts to procure a competent designer for their

Sesquicentennial coin:

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The sesquicentennial celebration will be held during the week of October 22, 1928. It is, therefore, highly desirable that the design be completed as soon as practical. Please be assured that the appropriate officers of the Territory of Hawaii will be pleased to cooperate with you and follow your suggestions in this matter."

Mr. Moore said that Governor Farrington had recently called at the Office of the Commission, when the question of this coin was discussed, and that Governor Farrington had expressed himself agreeable to the payment of $1,000 for the production of the coin,--$1,000 for the artist, and $500 for clay, etc. The obverse of the coin is to show the head of Captain Cook and for the reverse a native Hawaiian has been suggested.

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E. ROOT CHURCH HEARING: Mr. C. S. Robb of this city represented before the Commission with a sketch for a street sign for the new development adjacent to Kapiolani Park and Sixteenth Street Heights, near the Kapiolani Park and with the community has been carried to see that good manners and

secured the best in the matter of roads, sidewalks, sewers, water, and gas; that roads have been laid out to follow natural contours, and that 15 acres have been given for parkway purposes. The question of interest to them now, he said, is to secure good and attractive street signs. Mr. Robb submitted a sketch showing the name of a street and the words "Rock Creek Park Estates". This he said he prepared on the suggestion of the Electrical Department of the District of Columbia, who interposed no objection to wooden signs. The sketch called for a sign all in one piece and the Commission regarded it cumbersome. The architect members of the Commission worked out a sketch suggesting the name of the street on one side of a hooded post and the title on the opposite side; and recommended that the matter be taken up with Mr. Beresford, one of the leading architects of Washington. Mr. Robb said that Mr. Beresford has been helping them in some of their work and he doubtless would be glad to help them in this matter.

6. MEMORIAL OF THE UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY, ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE: Mr. Moore said yesterday morning Senator Swanson had asked him to confer with Mrs. W. C. N. Merchant, President General, U. D.C., of Chatham, Va., Mrs. Roy Weaks McKinney, Paducah, Kentucky, Mr. W. O. Clarke, Architect, 1419 Columbia Road, Washington, D.C., and Mrs. H. C. Armstrong, of Clarendon, Virginia, who called at the Office of the Commission of Fine Arts regarding their plan to provide a memorial to be given by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in connection with the Arlington Memorial Bridge; that Mr. Clarke had submitted in their behalf a sketch showing a terrace treatment at the foot of the Arlington Mansion.

Mr. Moore said he had informed the Committee that this was an expensive undertaking, that it would probably cost $100,000, but that the ladies proposed to start a campaign for funds if the plan met with the approval of the

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suggesting the name of the street on one side of a hooded post and the title
on the opposite side; and recommended that the matter be taken up with
Mr. Perceford, one of the leading architects of Washington. Mr. Hobb said
that Mr. Perceford has been helping them in some of their work and he doubtless
would be glad to help them in this matter.

6. RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY, WASHINGTON
MEMORIAL BRIDGE: Mr. Moore read yesterday morning Senator Swanson had asked
him to confer with Mrs. C. V. Berryhill, President General, U. D. C., of
Clarksburg, W. Va., Mrs. Roy Deane Kelliher, Hancock, Maryland, Mr. W. O. Clarke,
Architect, 1410 Columbia Road, Washington, D.C., and Mrs. H. C. Armstrong,
of Clarendon, Virginia, who called at the office of the Commission of Fine Arts
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at the foot of the Arlington Memorial.

Mr. Moore said he had informed the Committee that this was an expensive
undertaking, that it would probably cost $100,000, but that the ladies proposed

Commission; that Mr. Clarke was here to confer with the Commission in regard to the matter; that the ladies had been in conference with Colonel Grant, Executive Officer of the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, who had suggested to the ladies that the matter be taken up with the Commission of Fine Arts. The Commission said they would be pleased to hear Mr. Clarke.

Mr. Clarke appeared before the Commission with his sketch. This he explained as above outlined, saying that the sketch, which showed a terrace wall and a temple in front of the Arlington Mansion, was very crude and was simply intended to indicate the idea. Mr. Clarke said he was representing the United Daughters of the Confederacy and he would be guided by the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts in the matter.

The Commission felt that the plan would be vitally connected with the Arlington Memorial Bridge plans on the Virginia side of the Bridge, which were just being taken up by the Commission; that the Commission had not decided on the width of the Avenue to the Mansion and other problems in connection with this development. A simple terrace wall at the foot of the Mansion was mentioned as possibly being appropriate.

The Commission felt that the simplest treatment of the terrace was necessary and whether this would be monumental enough for the United Daughters of the Confederacy would then be a question. Attention was also called to the fact that this was to be a Memorial Bridge, and the question of having any organizationx commemorated was open to consideration, and would have to be considered very carefully. Mr. Clarke said he was ready to make further studies of the project. (Exhibit B).

7. WRIGHT MEMORIAL TOWER: Under date of February 13, 1928, a Memorandum was received from Hon. Edward P. Warner, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for

Aeronautics, with copy of a report of the Wright Memorial Commission, and also plans prepared in the Office of the Supervising Architect for a combined Light Tower and Coast Guard Station, as follows:

"This letter is written as a formal record of our understanding of last Saturday that the sketches so far prepared for the Kill Devil Hills Memorial have now been left with the Fine Arts Commission and that the Assistant Secretaries who have been doing preparatory work on a report to the Kill Devil Hills Memorial Commission will expect shortly to receive word of the Commission's opinion of the design outlined and of any recommendations that you may desire to make. If you will let me know the results of your preliminary consideration, I will transmit it to my colleagues in the Departments of War and Commerce, with whom I have been engaged in this preliminary study. When the Fine Arts Commission reaches the point of being ready to give definite approval to a design, I assume that you will transmit that to the Secretary of War, who is chairman of the Wright Memorial Commission. I enclose a copy of the recommendations drafted by the Committee."

"The Commission created by the Bill to provide for the erection of a memorial at Kill Devil Hill, approved March 2nd, 1927 (Public No. 668, 69th Congress) has given considerable study to the various forms of memorial which seem to be appropriate to the purpose, to the location, and to the proposed site.

In our opinion it is desirable that a structure should be erected which will serve the purpose of a memorial, and at the same time have a utilitarian function connected with aerial flight or with its history.

We accordingly recommend that the memorial to the first flight shall take the form of a combined Coast Guard Station and a Marine or aerial light house, to be erected in immediate proximity to the site of the present Coast Guard station at Kill Devil Hills. Members of the crew of this station gave invaluable assistance to the Wright Brothers in preparing their machine for its trials in 1903, and were among the witnesses of the first flight.

The office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department and the Bureau of Lighthouses of the Department of Commerce have prepared a design of a modest, but attractive, structure, including a light tower . . . . . feet high and a Coast Guard Station and dwelling of about the usual size to be constructed of native field stone.

We further recommend that there shall be erected upon the actual site of the first flight, as nearly as it can be determined, a granite shaft or other suitable simple marker with a bronze tablet bearing appropriate inscription. The site of this marker would be about one-half mile from the Coast Guard Station.

The estimated total cost of the memorial building and shaft with its tablet is approximately $100,000.

/s/ Dwight F. Davis
/s/ Curtis D. Wilbur
/s/ Herbert Hoover.

Hermanion, with copy of a report of the Wright Memorial Commission,

and also plans prepared in the Office of the Supervising Architect for

a combined Light Tower and Coast Guard Station, as follows:

"This letter is written as a formal record of our understanding of last Saturday that the sketches so far prepared for the Mill Devil Hills Memorial have now been left with the Fine Arts Commission and that the Assistant Secretaries who have been doing preparatory work on a report to the Mill Devil Hills Memorial Commission will expect shortly to receive word of the Commission's opinion of the design outlined and of any recommendations that you may desire to make. If you will let me know the results of your preliminary consideration, I will transmit it to my colleagues in the Department of War and Commerce, with whom I have been engaged in this preliminary study. When the Fine Arts Commission reaches the point of being ready to give definite approval to a design, I assume that you will transmit that to the Secretary of War, who is chairman of the Wright Memorial Commission. I enclose a copy of the recommendations drafted by the Committee."

"The Commission created by the Bill to provide for the erection of a memorial at Mill Devil Hills, approved March 2nd, 1927 (Public No. 656, 69th Congress) has given considerable study to the various forms of memorial which might be appropriate to the purpose, to the location, and to the proposed site.

In our opinion it is desirable that a structure should be erected which will serve the purpose of a memorial, and at the same time have a utilitarian function connected with aerial flight or with its history.

We therefore recommend that the memorial to the first flight should take the form of a combined Coast Guard Station and a lighthouse or aerial light house, to be erected in immediate proximity to the site of the present Coast Guard Station at Mill Devil Hills. Members of the crew of this station have invaluable assistance to the Wright Brothers in preparing their machine for its trials in 1903, and were among the witnesses of the first flight.

The office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department and the Bureau of Lighthouses of the Department of Commerce have prepared a design of a modest, but attractive, structure, including a light tower . . . . . Coast Light and a Coast Guard Station and dwelling of about the usual size to be constructed of native field stone.

We further recommend that there should be erected upon the united site of the first flight, as nearly as it can be determined, a granite shaft or other suitable simple marker with a bronze tablet bearing appropriate inscription. The site of this marker would be about one-half mile from the Coast Guard Station.

The estimated total cost of the memorial including land should not exceed the sum of $100,000.

Yours very truly,

/s/ Dwight F. Davis
Secretary of War.
/s/ Herbert Hoover.

The Act authorizing the erection of the Memorial reads as follows:

"BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That there shall be erected on Kill Devil Hill, at Kitty Hawk, in the State of North Carolina, a monument in commemoration of the first successful human attempt in all history at power-driven airplane flight, achieved by Orville Wright on December 17, 1903; and a commission to be composed of the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of Commerce is hereby created to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Sec.2. That it shall be the duty of the said commission to select a suitable location for said monument, which shall be as near as possible to the actual site of said flight; to acquire the necessary land therefor; to superintend the erection of the said monument; and to make all necessary and appropriate arrangements for the unveiling and dedication of the same when it shall have been completed.

Sec.3. That such sum or sums as Congress may hereafter appropriate for the purposes of this Act are hereby authorized to be appropriated.

Sec.4. The design and plans for the monument shall be subject to the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts and the Joint Committee on the Library. Approved March 2, 1927."

The plans showed a combined Tower and Coast Guard Station, and there was submitted also a modified sketch of the tower to conform more nearly to what the Bureau of Lighthouses would consider suitable.

Hon. Lindsay C. Warren, House of Representatives, who introduced the Bill, appeared before the Commission for a conference regarding the project. He asked the Commission whether they regarded the design as complying with the terms of the Act, and the Commission unanimously decided that the plans submitted would not be a compliance with the Act,-that it would be rather a new Coast Guard building rather than a Memorial to Orville Wright.

Mr. Warren said he could not understand how the Wright Memorial Commission mentioned in the Act could undertake to prepare a design, as there was no authority for it; that the pending War Department Appropriation Bill contains an amendment introduced by Senator Bingham(who introduced the original bill for the Memorial in the Senate), providing for an initial appropriation of $25,000 for the memorial, "Provided, that not to exceed $5,000 of this sum may

follows:

be expended for the purchase of plans, drawings and specifications for the erection of this monument by open competition, under such conditions as the commission may prescribe (Congr.Record of March 10, 1928, p.4651). Mr. Warren said the amendment did not suit him to the extent of appropriating $5,000 for plans; that he felt these could be paid for out of the $25,000. Thereupon Mr. Moore drafted an amendment for Mr. Warren, eliminating the $5,000 and providing "that a designer may be employed without Civil Service requirements. (Mr. Warren telephoned later in the day that the Appropriation Bill had reached the point where it was about to be approved, and no change could be made in the amendment above mentioned).

Mr. Warren said it was important to have prompt action in the matter of preparing the designs, as plans for a great celebration in Washington December 13-17, 1928, are under way, to commemorate the 25th Anniversay of Orville Wright's first flight; that a pilgrimage to Kitty Hawk? N.C., is planned for December 17th, by which time they would like to see the Memorial completed. Mr. Warren said the Kill Devil Hills Memorial Association owns 201 acres of land, which is to be developed into a flying field (which Mr.Warner of the Navy Department has endorsed); that special work is being done by the North Carolina Highway Commission to improve the roadways to Kitty Hawk, which can now be reached by a good road from Norfolk,about 45 miles way; Roanoke Island, the home of Virginia Dare, and is 10 miles from Kitty Hawk, so that they believe the Wright Memorial will be a very popular historic place of interest; that they hope to get the original plane (just sent to the British Museum). Mr. Warren read a list of distinguished citizens who are members of the Kill Devil Hills Memorial Association (Exhibit C), who he said are vitally interested in having a good monument erected to Orville Wright. Mr. Warren said the

in having a good monument erected to Orville Wright. Mr. Warren said the Hill Devil Hills Memorial Association (Exhibit C), who he said are vitally interested Mr. Warren read a list of distinguished citizens who are members of the Hill that they hope to get the original plane (just sent to the British Museum). believe the Wright Memorial will be a very popular historic place of interest; the home of Virginia Dare, and is 10 miles from Kitty Hawk, so that they can now be reached by a good road from Norfolk, about 65 miles away; Roanoke Island, North Carolina Highway Commission to improve the roadway to Kitty Hawk, which of the Navy Department has authorized; that special work is being done by the 200 acres of land, which is to be developed into a flying field (Major McCarthy completed. Mr. Warren said the Hill Devil Hills Memorial Association owns planned for December 17th, by which time they would like to see the Memorial Orville Wright's first flight; that a pilgrimage to Kitty Hawk N.C., is December 15-17, 1928, are under way, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of of preparing the design, no plans for a great celebration in Wednesday

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Thereupon Mr. Moore granted [illegible] for Mr. Warren, eliminating the $5,000 and $5,000.00 for plans; that in fact these could be paid for out of the $50,000. Warren said the amendment did not limit him to the extent of appropriating erection of this monument by open competition, under such conditions as the commission may prescribe (Cong. Record of March 10, 1928, p.4021). Mr. be expended for the purchase of plans, drawings and specifications for the

Coast Guard Station doubtless is in need of repair, but that the matter is being taken care of by a special appropriation of $20,000.

Mr. Moore called attention to the marker designed for Charles Fort, S.C. by Mr. Albert Simons, of Simons and Lapham, Architects, 42 Broad St., Charleston, S.C., whom he thought would be a good man to prepare the design. Mr. Moore also reminded Representative Warren that there is fine North Carolina granite in his State, especially the Mt. Airy, and suggested that it be used for the Tower. Mr. Warren was pleased with the suggestion.

Representative Warren thanked the Commission for the privilege of considering this project with them and said he would help the Commission to see that an appropriate memorial is erected. A report was sent to the Navy Department, disapproving the plans submitted (Exhibit C-1).

8. M STREET BRIDGE PLANS: Mr. David E. McComb, District Engineer of Bridges, and Mr. Howser, Assistant, submitted in behalf of the District Commissioners plans for the M Street Bridge, saying that the plans had been prepared to conform to the Act of Congress, requiring the construction of a steel girder bridge, as follows(Public No.487,69th Congress,Approved July 3,1926):

> "BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That in order to provide sufficient clearance for the proposed park drive in the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, and to enable traffic to use M Street, northwest, between Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Streets, the Commissioners of the District of Columbia be, and they are hereby, authorized and directed to construct a new steel-girder bridge to replace the bridge in the line of M Street over Rock Creek, which bridge shall have a roadway forty feet wide and two footways each nine feet wide and shall include proper facilities for carrying and supporting water main and other underground construction: PROVIDED , That the Commission of Fine Arts shall be consulted as to the architectural design of the proposed bridge and its approaches.
>
> Sec.2. That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated, payable in like manner as other appropriations for the expenses of the District of Columbia, the sum of $250,000, and the said commissioners are authorized to expend therefrom such sum or sums as may be necessary for personal services, engineering, and incidental expenses."

Also Commissioner Dougherty sent the following letter to accompany the plans:

"Referring to previous correspondence with regard to the plans for the proposed new bridge over Rock Creek at M Street, I am submitting to you the final plans for the bridge as prepared in the Bridge Department of the Municipal Government for comment and suggestion. In these plans every effort has been made to meet the criticisms of the preliminary design without departing from the steel-girder type, which is the only type that the Commissioners are authorized to build under the existing legislation of Congress.

In my letter of November 14, 1927, to you, I quoted the provision of the Act of Congress authorizing the construction of this bridge by which the Commissioners of the District of Columbia are authorized and directed to construct a new steel-girder bridge at this point with certain provisions for roadways, footways and for carrying and supporting water main and other underground construction, with the proviso that the Commission of Fine Arts shall be consulted as to the architectural design of the proposed bridge and its approaches. The report of the District Committee of the House, dated June 15, 1926, recommending the passage of this bill contains a discussion of the reasons for adopting the girder type rather than the arch type, and the passage of the bill in its present form by Congress would seem to indicate that these reasons were regarded by Congress as sufficiently cogent to determine the type. In any event, the Commissioners have no authority to construct a bridge of any other type at this point without further legislation and probably an increased appropriation, which seems unlikely to be secured.

Under the circumstances, it is hoped that the Commission of Fine Arts will see their way clear to giving their approval of the final design herewith submitted."

The secretary stated that Mr. Harris, Municipal Architect, had advised that the District Engineer of Bridges had practically ignored the advice of the Municipal Architect's office and that the plans were not conforming to the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, as set forth in letter of November 28, 1927, sent by Mr. Moore for the Commission in reply to the letter of November 14th from Commissioner Dougherty, above referred to, as follows):

"Since receiving your letter in regard to the new bridge at M Street I have been looking over the Hearings before the Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives, for the fiscal year 1928. I find that among the first questions asked by the Committee was whether the plans had been submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts. The reply was that the plans had not reached the

Miss Commissioner Dougherty sent the following letter to accompany the plans:

"Referring to previous correspondence with regard to the plans for the proposed new bridge over Rock Creek at K Street, I am submitting to you the final plans for the bridge as prepared in the Bridge Department of the Municipal Government for comment and suggestion. In these plans every effort has been made to meet the criticisms of the preliminary design without departing from the steel-girder type, which is the only type that the Commissioners are authorized to build under the existing legislation of Congress.

In my letter of November 14, 1927, to you, I quoted the provision of the act of Congress authorizing the construction of this bridge by which the Commissioners of the District of Columbia are authorized and directed to construct a new steel-girder bridge at this point with certain provisions for roadway, footways and for carrying and supporting water mains and other underground construction, with the proviso that the Commission of Fine Arts shall be consulted as to the architectural design of the proposed bridge and its approaches. The report of the District Commissioners of the House, dated June 14, 1926, recommending the passage of this bill sets forth the objection of the reasons for adopting the girder type rather than the arch type, and the passage of the bill in its present form by Congress would seem to indicate that these reasons were regarded by Congress as sufficiently cogent to determine the type. In any event, the Commissioners have no authority to construct a bridge of any other type at this point without further legislation and probably an increased appropriation, which seems unlikely to be secured.

Under the circumstances, it is hoped that the Commission of Fine Arts will see their way clear to giving their approval of the final design herewith submitted."

The secretary stated that Mr. Mangle, Municipal Architect, had advised that the District Engineer of Bridges had practically ignored the advice of the Municipal Architect's office and that plans were not according to the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts set forth in letter of November 20, 1926, sent by Mr. Moore to the Commission in reply to the letter of November 14th from Commissioner Dougherty, above referred to, as follows:

"Since receiving your letter in regard to the new bridge at K Street I have been looking over the hearings before the Subcommittee of the Appropriation Committee of the House of Representatives, for the fiscal year 1928. I find that among the first questions asked by the Committee was whether the plans had been submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts. The reply was that the plans had not received the

stage for submission. This answer disclosed on the part of the official a common but fundamental error in conception, and that misunderstanding has been repeated. The error is that the Commission is concerned merely with the ornaments placed on the bridge, and that by the use of ornament a bridge may be made architecturally satisfactory. To show how fundamental is this misconception one has but to regard the Key Bridge,--a successful structure from the point of view of both architects and the public. This bridge is without ornament. It gets its distinction solely from the proportions of its arches,--a matter over which this Commission spent much time and thought, trying out with the architect of the bridge various designs before settling on the right one.

The Hearings adverted to show on the part of the Subcommittee concern that the M Street bridge shall be a suitable structure to cross the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. Doubtless the members had in mind the Connecticut Avenue and the Q Street bridges. At any rate they specifically placed upon the Commission of Fine Arts the responsibility for a satisfactory design.

The natural course would seem to have been to call upon the Municipal Architect to make the design to be submitted to this Commission and discussed, as are designs for schools, engine-houses, police stations and like structures. A bridge is primarily a question of architecture. This Commission works in close cooperation with the Municipal Architect and the members have a high regard for him as a designer.

The plans submitted are not suited to a park structure, and they cannot be made suitable, because the design is fundamentally bad. A bridge constructed along such lines would be a perpetual eyesore. This result is just what the Congressional Committee sought to avoid by requiring that the plans be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts. Nothing remains, therefore, for the Commission to do, other than to report that the bridge should not be built according to the plans prepared; and that a new design, prepared in the office of the Municipal Architect, be submitted. This is in accordance with Congressional direction, and is the natural and usual procedure in regard to District architecture."

The architect members of the Commission inspected the plans, and as a steel girder bridge regarded the design acceptable, subject to some minor changes. The Commission then again considered the appropriateness of the design in relation to the Rock Creek Parkway. Mr. Vitale said it would not be an appropriate bridge to cross the Rock Creek Parkway at M Street. Mr. Moore called attention to the Q Street Bridge, as a type of bridge that should be adhered to for bridges crossing this Parkway, and referring to the Hearings above mentioned, said the District Engineer's Office had proceeded with undue

haste in the preparation of the plans, and that members of the Appropriations Committee seemed to be more interested in securing an appropriate design for this bridge than the District Engineer's Office.

The plans were disapproved and the District Commissioners were advised accordingly. (Exhibit D).

9. LINDBERGH MONUMENT: Mr. Moore stated that a few days ago Hon. Clyde Kelly, House of Representatives, a member from Pennsylvania, called in company with Mr. Frank Vittorm, Sculptor, of Pittsburgh, regarding a proposed monument, for which a design had been made by Mr. Vittorm, to be erected to Lindbergh, in Paris, and for which Mr. Kelly had introduced the following Bill (H.R.8922):

"To erect monument on LeBourget Field, Paris, France, to commemorate the Lindbergh flight from New York to Paris.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That the Secretary of State is authorized and directed to procure, to present to the Republic of France, and to erect on Le Bourget Field, Paris, France, a monument after the design of Frank Vittor, American Sculptor, to commemorate the epoch-making flight from New York to Paris by Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh. Such monument shall be prepared and erected only after the plans and specifications therefor have been approved by the Commission of Fine Arts.

SEC. 2. There is authorized to be appropriated the sum of $50,000,or so much thereof as may be necessary, to carry out the provisions of this Act, including the cost of such monument, of transportation, of grading the site,and of building the pedestal, and traveling expenses of the persons employed in erecting such monument and of the persons delegated by the Secretary of State to present, on behalf of the United States, such monument to the Republic of France."

Mr. Moore submitted the sketch of the proposed monument received from Mr. Kelly, showing an aviator resting on a wing, and numerous portrait figures projecting out of a globe.

The Commission regarded the design inappropriate for a monument as proposed, lacking the characteristics of a work of art, and disapproved the design. The Commission raised the question of the appropriateness of

designating someone by legislation to design the monument. Mr. Kelly was informed accordingly (Exhibit E).

10. PAINTING OF PRESIDENT HARDING: Mr. Moore called attention to a painting of President Harding, sent to the Commission for advice by Senator Phipps. The picture he said had been painted by a Miss Williams, of Wales, and was proposed for the White House.

The secretary said that the Senate Committee on the Library had disapproved the painting, but that Senator Phipps wanted to send it to the Commission nevertheless.

The Commission inspected the painting and unanimously agreed that it lacked the necessary quality for a painting to be placed in the White House. The portrait showed the President's seal, which the Commission regarded unusual for a picture. The Commission disapproved the painting.

11. TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER: The Commission received from General Cheatham for consideration and advice a copy of a program of Competition for completion of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (Exhibit F), in accordance with the Act of July 3, 1926.

Mr. Moore said he had sent the Memorandum to Mr. Delano for his recommendations and that Mr. Delano had reported that he had been in consultation with Mr. Morris and Mr. Hastings in regard to the matter, and that they felt, in view of the fact that Mr. Hastings had not been paid for his services preparing the base of the monument, they would regard a program of competition unfortunate.

Mr. Moore reviewed the history of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, saying that originally the War Department had called on Mr. Hastings for the initial work on the monument; that subsequently Mr. Hastings had prepared a design for completing the monument, which the Commission of Fine Arts approved,

but which was disapproved by Secretary of War Weeks, and that since then plans to complete the tomb have been held in abeyance.

Mr. Garfield read a copy of a letter sent by Mr. Hastings to the American Institute of Architects, being a copy of one which Mr. Hastings had sent to the Judge Advocate General of the War Department setting forth his claim. The Commission felt that compensation was due Mr. Hastings, but in the absence of a contract wondered how the Judge Advocate General would rule in the matter.

The Commission concluded that the Program of Competition was not a matter for them to decide on; that while Mr. Hastings has just reason for wanting settlement of his claim, he should submit if he desires a new design for the proposed competition. The secretary said that the program of competition will allow for a comprehensive plan, which might include steps at the East front of the Amphitheater as an approach to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and that in his opinion Congress would appropriate more than $50,000 thus far specified, if an appropriate design could be adopted for completing the project.

The copy of the Program of Competition was returned to General Cheatham. (Exhibit F-1)

Mr. Garfield said the Program of Competition would have to conform to the rules of the American Institute of Architects before members of the Institute would compete, and inquiry is to be made in regard to this matter.

12. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE, UNDERPASS AND STEPS: The Commission gave further consideration to the question of Underpass and steps as part of the Arlington Memorial Bridge composition.

Colonel Grant again submitted the model of the bridge composition, heretofore considered by the Commission, and Mr. Medary came down from Philadelphia, to represent the National Capital Park and Planning Commission,

but which was disapproved by Secretary of War Jones, and that since then
plans to complete the tomb have been held in abeyance.

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American Institute of Architects, being a copy of one which Mr. Hastings
had sent to the Judge Advocate General of the War Department setting forth
his claim. The Commission felt that compensation was due Mr. Hastings, but
in the absence of a contract wondered how the Judge Advocate General would
rule in the matter.

The Commission concluded that its Program of Competition was not a
matter for them to decide on; that while Mr. Hastings had just reason for
wanting settlement of his claim, he should submit if he desires a new design
for the proposed competition. The Secretary said that the Program of
competition will allow for a compromise plan, which might include steps
at the West front of the Amphitheater as an approach to the Tomb of the
Unknown Soldier, and that in his opinion Congress would appropriate more
than $2,000 this year specified, if an appropriate design could be adopted
for completing the project.

The copy of the Program of Competition was returned to General Sherman.
(Exhibit B-1)

Mr. Warfield said the Program of Competition would have to conform
to the rules of the American Institute of Architects before members of the
Institute would compete, and inquiry is to be made in regard to this matter.

IC. MEMORANDUM REGARDING DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND SITE: The Commission
gave further consideration to the question of Underpass and steps as part
of the Arlington Memorial Bridge composition.

Colonel Grant again submitted the model of the bridge composition,
heretofore considered by the Commission, and Mr. Hegarty came down from
Philadelphia, to represent the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

for a further consideration of the project.

Mr. Medary emphasized the fact that the axis of the Mall steps at the Lincoln Memorial and steps down in the rear of the Lincoln Memorial lead to nothing and will serve no particular purpose; that the question of underpass or tunnel has been reconsidered with a view to shortening it, but that according to the design submitted by the architects the tunnel would still be about 400 feet long and would be objectionable. Mr. Medary recommended an underpass arch and roadway from the Rock Creek Parkway and B Street to the bridge, adjacent to a terrace wall. Mr. Medary called attention to the wall along the Seine and the wall along the Pincian Hill, which gives a magnificent overlook. Mr. Medary said recently in Philadelphia they put in a flight of steps as an approach to a park and as an entrance to the parkway, with steps which in turn lead down to the city, but there the steps serve a real purpose; which he said would not be the case at the Lincoln Memorial.

Mr. Moore read the following letter received from Mr. Pope, dated March 5, 1928:

"Dear Mr. Moore:

"I have your letter of March first with enclosures.

It has always been my feeling that no important changes in the Plan of 1901 should be made; it anticipates an easement into the Potomac on the Potomac side of the Lincoln Memorial. The McKim, Mead, and White Plan submitted is in accord with it.

The Plan of 1901 does not, however, anticipate a tunnel to take care of the lower shore traffic at this interesting point and, I believe, the objections to this feature are well taken.

My mind is open as to whether the tunnel is the best or the only solution of this new traffic condition. In view of the present criticisms and anticipating future criticism, I would welcome a further attempt at a more straight-forward solution.

With my kindest regards to you and the rest of the Commission, I am,

Faithfully yours,
John Russell Pope.

The secretary said that Mr. Greenleaf had long ago recommended a river wall to extend also from the bridge to the Ericsson Memorial. The question was

raised as to what Mr. Bacon thought of the project. The secretary stated that Mr. Kendall had said that Mr. Bacon saw the Arlington Memorial Bridge plans and approved them with the single suggestion to have two fountains instead of one at the rear of the Lincoln Memorial on the plaza.

The Commission later in the day inspected the project on the ground, and saw the stakes that had been driven in by Mr. Kendall for the width of the "Avenue" on the Virginia side of the Memorial Bridge; also a trip was made to the river shore where the mass of granite for the bridge was seen.

After consideration the Commission decided to refer the question of underpass and steps to the present and former architect members of the Commission of Fine Arts, a meeting to be called March 15, 1928.

13. FORT LINCOLN DEVELOPMENT: Mr. H. W. Peaslee brought to the attention of the Commission plans for the further development of Fort Lincoln Cemetery. The Commission endorsed the plan to have planting at the chapel and cloister, and planting of informally shaped evergreen material in connection with monuments and without regard to lot lines. The Commission emphasized the importance of keeping the project in the plan of development for the National Capital, as a connecting link of the proposed Fort Drive with the Anacostia Park (Exhibit G).

14. MERIDIAN HILL PARK: Lieut. Col. Grant, Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks, submitted plans prepared by Mr. Horace W. Peaslee, Architect, for the Lower Garden of Meridian Hill Park. The main points of variation from preceding plans are:

(1) Oval west plaza, which the Commission reduced in size.
(2) Raised pool coping.
(3) The use of pebble mosaic.
(4) Color in the pool. Mr. Olmsted had used a concrete stain, Mr. Vitale said, and he would inquire in New York about the matter.
(5) Step setback in exhedra and central feature.

from preceding plans are:

(1) Oval rose plaza, which the Commission reduced in size.
(2) Raised pool coping.
(3) The use of double mosaic.
(4) Color in the pool. Mr. Olmsted had used a concrete basin, Mr. Vitale said, and he would inquire in New York about the matter.
(5) Step reduction in embankments and central features.

for the Lower Section of Potomac Park. The main points of variation

and Public Parks, submitted plans prepared by Mr. Horace W. Peaslee, Architect,

14. PARK AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS: Miss. Col. Newby, Director of Public Buildings

Potomac Park (Exhibit C).

Capitol, as a connecting link of the proposed Fort Drive with the

importance of locating the project in the plan of development for the National

monuments and without regard to lot lines. The Commission emphasized the

and planting of informally arranged evergreen material in connection with

Commission endorsed the plan to have planting at the enlarged and cloister.

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Commission of Fine Arts, a meeting to be called March 15, 1938.

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instead of one at the rear of the Lincoln Memorial on the plans.

The Commission later in the day inspected the project on the ground,

Mendell had said that Mr. Bacon saw the Arlington Memorial Bridge

called on to what Mr. Bacon thought of the project. The secretary stated

(6) Fountains flanking exhedra.
(7) Retaining wall seats.
(8) Changes in paving and planting areas (which were indicated on the plans)

Mr. Vitale said he had gone over the plans, and with the changes, above mentioned, he would recommend them for approval. The Commission approved the plans submitted for the Lower Garden accordingly, and also sectional elevations for the Lower Garden and enclosing areas on the east, south and west.

This approved plan for the Lower Garden will now be used as the basis of detailed development. The Commission gave particular attention to the lay-out in front of the Buchanan Memorial and the treatment proposed at the foot of the Cascade. Mr. Vitale said he had recommended 25 foot hemlock for the rear of the Buchanan Memorial.

The Commission noted that the two major projects remaining to be attended to are the Grand Terrace and the Cascades, the other remaining items being small and of a miscellaneous character. The Commission expressed the hope that funds for the park could be secured in the pending District of Columbia Appropriation Bill. (Exhibit H).

15. COAST GUARD MEMORIAL: The Commission inspected the Coast Guard Memorial, at the south end of Arlington. The monument is a pyramid of stone, which will have a sea gull in front of it, and for landscape setting will have an abundance of evergreen. Mr. Vitale said he was satisfied with the progress which is being made in the planting. The secretary said it is proposed to dedicate the monument during the month of May.

The Commission adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The Commission had as their guests at luncheon Hon. Irwin Laughlin, Lieut. Col. Grant, Mr. Louis Simon, and Mr. Peaslee.

(6) Fountains flanking entrance.
(7) Retaining wall seats.
(8) Changes in paving and planting areas (which were indicated on the plans)

Mr. Vitale said he had gone over the plans, and with the changes above mentioned, he would recommend them for approval. The Commission approved the plans submitted for the Lower Garden accordingly, and also accepted the elevations for the Lower Garden and enclosing areas on the east, south and west.

This approved plan for the Lower Garden will now be used as the basis of detailed development. The Commission gave particular attention to the lay-out in front of the Buchanan Memorial and the treatment proposed at the foot of the Cascade. Mr. Vitale said he had recommended 25 foot Hemlock for the rear of the Buchanan Memorial.

The Commission noted that the two major projects remaining to be attended to are the Grand Terrace and the Cascades, the other remaining items being small and of a miscellaneous character. The Commission expressed the hope that funds for the park could be secured in the coming District of Columbia Appropriation Bill. (Exhibit X).

10. JOHN PAUL MONUMENT: The Commission inspected the Grant Memorial, at the south end of Arlington. The monument is a pyramid of stone, which will have a rock grill in front of it, and for landscape setting will have an abundance of evergreen. Mr. Vitale said he was satisfied with the progress which is being made in the planting. The secretary said it is proposed to dedicate the monument during the month of May.

The Commission adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The Commission had as their guests at luncheon Hon. Irwin Laughlin, Lieut. Col. Grant, Mr. Louis Simon, and Mr. Iseman.

COPY

March 9, 1928.

Dear Mr. Beach:

The Commission of Fine Arts has been requested by Hon. W. R. Farrington, Governor of Hawaii, to secure a designer for their Sesquicentennial 50 cent piece, which has been authorized by Congress, and the Commission wish to recommend you for the work. The sum made available for the medallist is $1,000. The head of Capt. James Cook is to appear on the obverse and a native Hawaiian on the reverse, according to sketches submitted. The medallist would use these as the basis of his work, which of course would have to include requirements of the Director of the Mint as to the production of coins.

I would be pleased to hear from you whether or not you would accept this commission.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Chester Beach, Esq.,
207 East 17th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Exhibit A

March 9, 1932.

Dear Mr. Morris:

The Commission of Fine Arts has been requested by Mr. W. H. Hutchinson, Governor of Hawaii, to review a design for their Legislature Building, and the Commission will be pleased to receive your drawings.

The sum made available for the Capitol is $1,000. The Board of Trade, Chamber of Commerce and a native Hawaiian on the Governor, assisting to Honolulu assisted. The Capitol would use these as the basis of this work, which of course would have to include requirements of the Director of the Mint as to the production of coins.

I would be pleased to hear from you whether or not you would accept this commission.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Chester Dewey, Esq.,

DAY Post Office Tower,

New York, N.Y.

Penfield:

COPY

Studio of
Chester Beach
207 East 17th Street.

New York, March 12, 1928.

Mr. Charles Moore, Chairman,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I have your letter of March 9th, and would be pleased to accept the commission for the making of the model for the Hawaiian Sesquicentennial half-dollar, based on the design that has been approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, which you will send me at once.

As soon as I receive it I will consult with Mr. Fraser about it and let you know if any changes are deemed necessary.

Thanking you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Chester Beach.

Exhibit A-1

Exhibit E-1

COPY

March 10, 1928.

Dear Mrs. Merchant:

The Commission of Fine Arts were pleased to hear your representative, Mr. Clark, at their meeting on March 8, 1928, Mr. Clark left his sketch, which will receive very careful consideration in connection with the plans for the changes in Arlington made necessary by the construction of the Memorial Bridge.

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mrs. W. C. N. Merchant,
President General,
United Daughters of the Confederacy,
Chatham, Virginia.

Exhibit B

Exhibit B

Kill Devil Hills Memorial Association

Headquarters

VIRGINIA DARE HOTEL

Elizabeth City, North Carolina

W. O. SAUNDERS, PRES.
J. C. B. EHRINGHAUS, 1ST. V-P.
DUDLEY W. BAGLEY, 2ND. V-P.
THOS. NIXON, 3RD. V-P.
W. G. GAITHER, SEC'Y-TREAS.

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MR. HOWARD COFFIN OF MICHIGAN

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SENATOR LEE S. OVERMAN
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OF MICHIGAN

MR. FRANK A. TICHENOR OF NEW YORK
EDITOR OF THE AERO DIGEST

HON. OGDEN L. MILLS OF NEW YORK
UNDERSECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

CONGRESSMAN JOHN N. GARNER
OF TEXAS

HON. JOSEPHUS DANIELS OF NORTH CAROLINA
FORMER SEGRETARY OF THE NAVY

ADMIRAL W. A. MOFFAT
CHIEF OF BUREAU OF AERONAUTICS
NAVY DEPARTMENT

HON. WILLIAM G. McADOO OF CALIFORNIA
FORMER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

MR. F. VALENTINE CHAPPELL
OF CONNECTICUT

ADMIRAL R. E. COONTZ
COMMANDANT FIFTH NAVAL DISTRICT

HON. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT OF NEW YORK
FORMER ASST. SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

CONGRESSMAN ROBERT LUCE
OF MASSACHUSETTS

DR. HARRY WOODBURN CHASE
PRESIDENT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

COL. REGINALD DeLACOUR
COMMANDANT ARMY WAR COLLEGE

HON. O. MAX GARDNER
OF NORTH CAROLINA

MR. MARK SULLIVAN
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

GENERAL A. J. BOWLEY
COMMANDING GENERAL FORT BRAGG

HON. JOHN BARTON PAYNE
OF ILLINOIS
FORMER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

HON. JOHN H. SMALL
OF NORTH CAROLINA

MR. GEORGE B. SMITH
OF OHIO

DR. EDWIN A. ALDERMAN
PRESIDENT UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

CONGRESSMAN A. L. BULWINKLE
OF NORTH CAROLINA

MR. LOUIS LUDLOW DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PRESIDENT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

HON. FRANK PAGE
CHAIRMAN STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION
OF NORTH CAROLINA

CONGRESSMAN FIORELLO H. LA GUARDIA
OF NEW YORK

CAPT. EARL FINDLEY
EDITOR U. S. AIR SERVICES

GOVERNOR ALFRED E. SMITH
OF NEW YORK

MR. JOSEPH PULITZER OF MISSOURI
EDITOR ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

JUDGE WILLIAM J. MALONE
OF CONNECTICUT

RT. REV. THOMAS C. DARST
OF WILMINGTON, N. C.

GENERAL MASON M. PATRICK
CHIEF OF THE AIR CORPS, WAR DEPARTMENT

WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST

SENATOR MORRIS SHEPPARD OF TEXAS

MR. CECIL B. DEMILLE OF NEW YORK

CONGRESSMAN ROY C. FITZGERALD OF OHIO

DR. GILBERT GROSVENOR
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PRES. OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

GOV. A. V. DONAHEY OF OHIO

SENATOR L. D. TYSON OF TENNESSEE

HON. FINIS J. GARRETT OF TENNESSEE
MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

LIEUT. COMMANDER S. S. YEANDLE, U. S. C. G.

MR. HARRY GUGGENHEIM DIRECTOR OF THE
DANIEL GUGGENHEIM FUND FOR THE

COPY

March 10, 1928.

Dear Mr. Warner:

The Commission of Fine Arts acknowledge the receipt of the report of the Commission created by the Bill to provide for the erection of a memorial at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, approved March 2, 1927, together with the design for a combined Coast Guard Station and aerial Light House to be erected in the immediate proximity of the present Coast Guard Station at Kill Devil Hills.

The report states that "The Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department and the Bureau of Lighthouses of the Department of Commerce have prepared a design of a modest, but attractive, structure, including a light tower . . . . feet high and a Coast Guard Station and dwelling of about the usual size to be constructed of native field stone."

The report proposes that "there shall be erected upon the actual site of the first flight, as nearly as it can be determined, a granite shaft or other suitable simple marker with a bronze tablet bearing appropriate inscription. The site of this marker would be about one-half mile from the Coast Guard Station. The estimated total cost of the memorial building and shaft with its tablet is approximately $100,000.

On examination of the Act of Congress providing for a memorial to Orville Wright at the place of his first flight, the Commission of Fine Arts are of the opinion that the proposed structure would not fulfill the requirements of the Act; also that the utilitarian features of the proposed building so far outweigh the memorial feature that the result would not be a memorial within the meaning of the Act. This opinion of the Commission is reinforced by a statement made by Hon. Lindsay C. Warren, of North Carolina, at whose instance the legislation was enacted, and the members of the Kill Devil Hills Memorial Association, who are actively promoting the marking of the first flight. This Commission find that the Association owns 201 acres of land, including the site of the first flight; that their idea is to erect a memorial tower which should carry a powerful light to aid fliers. With this might be combined a needed light house to aid navigation, both of which features could be combined in a memorial tower, without impairing its memorial character. The Kill Devil Hill Memorial Association also proposes a landing place for planes and a suitable landscape treatment of the vicinity of the memorial. In the opinion of this Commission, these latter proposals carry out the terms of the Act of authorization and would result in an appropriate memorial, which could be erected within the sum named.

The plans are herewith returned.

For the Commission of Fine Arts;

Very respectfully, yours,
Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Hon. Edward P. Warner,
Assistant Secretary of the Navy
for Aeronautics, Navy Department.
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit C-1

Exhibit O-1

Washington, D.C.

Hon. Edward P. Warner,
Assistant Secretary of the Navy
for Aeronautics, Navy Department.

Dear Mr. Warner:

The Commission of Fine Arts acknowledge the receipt of the report of the Commission created by the Act to provide for the erection of a memorial at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, approved March 3, 1927, together with the design for a combined Coast Guard Station and Aerial Light House to be erected in the immediate proximity of the present Coast Guard Station at Kill Devil Hills.

The report states that "The Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department and the Bureau of Lighthouses of the Department of Commerce have prepared a design of a modest, but attractive, structure, including a light tower . . . . feet high and a Coast Guard Station and dwelling of about the usual size to be constructed at native field stone."

The report proposes that "there shall be erected upon the actual site of the first flight, as nearly as it can be determined, a granite shaft or other suitable simple marker with a bronze tablet bearing appropriate inscription. The site of this marker would be about one-half mile from the Coast Guard Station. The estimated total cost of the memorial building and shaft with its tablet is approximately $100,000.

On examination of the Act of Congress providing for a memorial to Orville Wright at the place of his first flight, the Commission of Fine Arts are of the opinion that the proposed structure would not fulfill the requirements of the Act; also that the multiplication features of the proposed building so far outweigh the memorial feature that the result would not be a memorial within the meaning of the Act. This opinion of the Commission is reinforced by a statement made by Hon. Lindsay C. Warren, of North Carolina, at more instance the legislation was enacted, and the members of the Kill Devil Hills Memorial Association, who are actively promoting the erection of the first flight. This Commission find that the association owns 2.01 acres of land, including the site of the first flight; that their idea is to erect a memorial tower which should carry a powerful light to aid fliers. With this might be combined a needed light house to aid navigation, both of which features could be combined in a memorial tower, without impairing its memorial character. The Kill Devil Hill Memorial Association also proposes a landing place for planes and a suitable landscape treatment of the vicinity of the memorial. In the opinion of this Commission, these latter proposals carry out the terms of the Act of authorization and would result in an appropriate memorial, which could be erected within the sum named.

The plans are herewith returned.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Chairman.

Washington Star

N, D. C., MARCH 18, 1928.

COMMISSION BARS TUNNEL AT BRIDGE

Archway Recommended for Traffic Passing New Arlington Span.

Automobile traffic passing the Arlington Memorial Bridge, in West Potomac Park, will not go through a tunnel, the National Commission of Fine Arts has ruled, in a communication sent to the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, containing its recommendation for treatment of the area between the by-pass under the bridge and the by-pass proposed under the roadway from the bridge plaza into the Rock Creek and Potomac parkway.

The commission laid down eight recommendations, which, in general provide for an open roadway, arch shaped, at the foot of combine steps and granite wall. Whereas it was proposed to have a grass terrace between the steps and the viaduct, the Commission of Fine Arts has ruled that it should be a wall, faced with granite. On the waterside of the proposed roadway will be another set of steps dipping into the water, with provision made for preventing drift material from catching at the base of the steps in the eddies expected to be developed.

The recommendations laid down by the Fine Arts Commission are that reasonable reduction be made in the width of the steps; retaining walls to be on each side of the steps, joining them with the bridge and the Rock Creek parkway connection; omit the tunnel under the steps; move the steps back as far as the granite wall of the bridge will permit; the arch under the abutment of the bridge to be cut at right angles with the bridge, with a corresponding treatment of the arch under the Rock Creek parkway connection; arrange for a roadway at the foot of steps, connecting the arches, this driveway to be considered part of the architectural scheme rather than a roadway in the true sense; from this lower level of steps, a study should be made of supplementary steps to care for the rise and fall of the tide water; if it should be necessary to care for the flotsam and jetsam it should be provided for by an architectural barrier to be in harmony with the scheme.

Plans are to be developed to carry into effect the recommendations of the Fine Arts Commission, and the decision is a result of a joint conference recently held in New York City between members of the bridge commission, the architects and the Fine Arts Commission.

COPY

March 10, 1928.

My dear Mr. Dougherty:

The Commission of Fine Arts, having considered the plans submitted by the District Engineer of Bridges for a bridge over Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway at M Street, are returning the same with their disapproval of the plans as submitted. In the opinion of the Commission the bridge if constructed according to these plans would be a perpetual eyesore, conspicuous not only from the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge, but especially so from the driveway extending from the Lincoln Memorial to Rock Creek Park, a driveway which forms an essential portion of the park system of the District of Columbia.

The District of Columbia has set a place in the construction of the Q Street Bridge, which should be maintained in the construction of all bridges across the Rock Creek Parkway. If the proposed design were simply inconspicuous, the Commission might approve it reluctantly, but inasmuch as the design is conspicuously bad the Commission cannot give their approval.

The Hearings show conclusively that Congress intended this bridge to be so designed as to secure the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts, and it is with great reluctance that we have to report our disapproval.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Proctor L. Dougherty, President,
Board of Commissioners of the
District of Columbia,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit D

Exhibit D

COPY

March 10, 1928.

Dear Mr. Luce:

The Commission of Fine Arts received from the Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives a copy of H. R. 8922, "To erect monument on LeBourget Field, Paris, France, to commemorate the Lindbergh flight from New York to Paris", and respectfully report:

The Commission were somewhat puzzled over peculiar provisions of the Bill. In the first place, the Commission feel that it is a very delicate matter for one country to propose to give a work of art to another country. Such gifts usually have proposed an embarrassment to this country. It has seemed ungracious to refuse them, and yet they are rarely such as this Government would erect of its own accord.

Again, as a matter of taste it might be considered the province of France to erect a memorial of the first trans-Atlantic flight, rather than that the memorial be erected by the country of achievement.

In the event that Congress should make an appropriation for a memorial to Lindbergh in France, the selection of the sculptor and of the design might be committed (as is usual) to a commission established for the purpose; and that Commission should be free to obtain a suitable monument. It is quite unusual for Congress to specify a particular sculptor and design. It is suggested that, if the bill finds the favor of the Committee on the Library, it be amended in accordance with the above suggestions.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Robert Luce, Chairman,
Committee on the Library,
House of Representatives.

Exhibit E

March 10, 1960.

Dear Mr. Duce:

The Commission of Fine Arts received from the Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives a copy of H. Con. Res. 282, "To erect monument on Independence Field, Paris, France, to commemorate the flight of Flight from New York to Paris," and respectfully reports:

The Commission here commented fully over recently favorable of the bill. In the first place, the Commission feel that it is a very delicate matter for one country to propose to give a work of art to another country. Such gifts usually have originated on appointment to this country. It has seemed unprecedented to refuse them, and yet they are rarely such as this Government would create of its own accord.

Again, as a matter of taste it might be considered the province of France to erect a memorial of the first trans-Atlantic flight, rather than that the memorial be erected by the country of achievement.

In the event that Congress should make an appropriation for a memorial to Lindbergh in Paris, the selection of the sculptor and of the design might be committed (as is usual) to a commission established for the purpose; and that Commission should be free to obtain a suitable monument. It is quite unusual for Congress to specify a particular sculptor and design. It is suggested that, if the bill finds favor of the Committee on the Library, it be amended in accordance with these observations.

By the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

Chairman.

Exhibit B

PROGRAM OF COMPETITION FOR COMPLETION OF THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, ARLINGTON, VA. UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

1. The Act of Congress, approved July 3, 1926, provides as follows:

"RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized to secure competitive designs according to such regulations as he may adopt and to complete the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Arlington National Cemetery, together with such inclosure as may be deemed necessary, and a sum not to exceed $50,000. is hereby authorized to be appropriated for this purpose: PROVIDED, That the accepted designs of such tomb and inclosure shall be subject to the approval of the Arlington Cemetery Commission, The American Battle Monuments Commission, and the Fine Arts Commission."

2. The act of December 22, 1927 provides that:

"For every expenditure requisite for or incident to the work of securing competitive preliminary designs for completing the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Arlington National Cemetery, as authorized by the public resolution approved July 3, 1926, $2,500, to remain available until June 30, 1929: PROVIDED, That in carrying into effect the provisions of such public resolution the Secretary of War is

authorized to do all of the things necessary to accomplish this purpose, by contract or otherwise, with or without advertising, including payment for designs submitted under such conditions as he may prescribe."

3. In accordance with the terms of the above Acts, the Secretary of War invites Architects and Sculptors of standing and reputation who are citizens of the United States to submit designs for the completion of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Arlington National Cemetery. All those intending to compete must send their names and addresses on or before Saturday, March 31st, 1928, to The Quartermaster General, Cemeterial Division, Munitions Building, Washington, D. C., who will act as the representative of the Secretary of War in connection with this work. On this date the conditions governing the competition will be distributed.

4. A professional adviser will be appointed by the Secretary of War, on the recommendation of the American Institute of Architects, for the purpose of advising the Secretary of War in regard to all professional questions in regard to the competition and of assisting the Jury of Award in such manner as may become necessary.

5. The above Acts of Congress authorize the completion of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier which at present consists of a base or die of marble of the dimensions shown in the accompanying blueprints. It has been determined that this base shall not be disturbed and that the Memorial to be placed thereon, over or adjacent thereto must be limited in height and of such a nature that while it fully emphasizes

the dignity and importance of its mission, it will not present any conflicting or obtrusive feature when viewed against the Arlington Amphitheater, which will form its background.

6. The authorized total cost of the Memorial and of the designs therefor is by the Act approved July 3, 1926, limited to $50,000.00 and it is estimated that of this sum, $44,000.00 will be available for the actual fabrication and erection of the Memorial. Should any competitor desire to submit as a part of his design drawings showing a modification of the surrounding terraces at additional expense for the purpose of making the Tomb itself more easily seen from the adjacent driveway or to enhance its dignity by providing a monumental approach thereto, such suggestions will be received and given full weight in connection with the consideration of the design of the monument itself.

7. The Quartermaster General will furnish to each competitor three blueprints showing the location and present surroundings of the Tomb and they will form an essential part of the information conveyed by this program. Any additional material and information issued will be mailed simultaneously to all competitors and will thereupon constitute an essential part of this program.

8. The preliminary drawings showing the completion of the Tomb shall consist of one side and one end elevation and a plan at a scale of $\frac{3}{32}$" to the foot on a single sheet of white paper. Should competitors desire to include in their design any modifications of the surrounding terraces and approaches, similar sheets at scales of 1/8 and 1/32 inch to

the foot will be used for this purpose. All drawings will be made in black ink or black pencil at the option of the competitor.

9. Drawings submitted shall bear no name or mark that will serve as a means of identification. With each set of drawings must be enclosed a plain sealed envelope without inscription or mark of any kind, containing the name and address of the author. These envelopes will remain unopened until a decision in regard to the five premiated designs has been reached.

10. With each design there shall be submitted a description of not over 250 words in length, describing the kind and character of material to be used.

11. No competitor shall submit more than one design.

12. All competitors must forward their designs at such time as to reach their destination on or before 4:30 P.M. Tuesday May 15, 1928. These must be sent at their own risk and expense, addressed in plain wrapper to "The Quartermaster General, Munitions Building, Washington, D. C." No costs of nor compensation for these designs will be paid by the Government.

13. The Jury of Award will consist of five members; three architects to be appointed by the Secretary of War from a list of names to be submitted by the President of the American Institute of Architects, a representative of the American Legion and a representative of the Gold Star Mothers. This Jury will, after an inspection of the site and consideration of the conditions of the problem, select the five designs (or a lesser number if not sufficient merit is shown by that number)

which in their opinion will give the best results when fully studied in relation to the site and its surroundings.

14. The selected competitors will be required to re-study their designs for the Memorial proper and to prepare models at a scale of one and one-half inches to the foot, which shall show the Memorial in full in connection with a scale replica of the existing stone base. These models shall be of white plaster of Paris with any portions intended to represent bronze colored brown. For this work each one of these competitors shall be paid the sum of $500.00. and this payment will be made immediately after the receipt at the office of The Quartermaster General, Munitions Building, Washington, D. C. of the models, all carrying charges being paid by the competitors.

15. From the selected designs thus re-submitted the Jury of Award will select the best and most suitable design, the author of which shall be the architect for the completion of the Memorial. After any necessary revisions, if any, to meet the requirements of the Arlington Cemetery Commission, The American Battle Monuments Commission, and the Fine Arts Commission, and when approved by the Secretary of War, the design shall be final. As soon as funds become available, a formal contract will be made with the winner for the preparation of the necessary plans and specifications and for supervision of erection, for which service a commission of 8% of the amount of the contract will be paid. The Government will make the necessary contract and provide superintendence. No competitors other than the authors of the five selected designs shall receive any compensation for their services or reimbursement of costs.

16. Designs to be eligible for award must comply with the mandatory requirements of this program. The Secretary of War reserves the right to reject all the designs submitted if none in the opinion of the Jury is worthy of execution.

17. Attention is invited to the provision of the law under which the decision of the Secretary of War is final in all matters pertaining to the award and execution of this work.

EXHIBIT F.

COPY

March 9, 1928.

Dear General Cheatham:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting yesterday, gave consideration to your Memorandum of February 23, transmitting for the information of the Commission a program of competition to obtain a design for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington, which program has been prepared pursuant to the Act of July 3, 1926. Inasmuch as the program involves the active participation of the American Institute of Architects, the Commission assume that that organization has been consulted, and has signified its willingness to cooperate as called for by the program.

The copy of the program is returned herewith, with appreciation of your courtesy. The Commission suggest that the invitation to compete might be sent to sculptors as well as architects.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Major General B. F. Cheatham,
The Quartermaster General,
War Department,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit F-1

Exhibit P-1

Washington, D.C.
The Quartermaster General
Attn: Department
Major General B. B. Chidlaw,

Dear General Chidlaw:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting yesterday, gave consideration to your memorandum of February 20, transmitting for the information of the Commission a program of competition to obtain a design for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Washington. This program has been prepared pursuant to the Act of July 3, 1926, inasmuch as the program involves the active participation of the American Institute of Architects, the Commission means that that organization has been consulted, and has signified its willingness to cooperate as called for by the program.

The copy of the program is returned herewith, with appreciation of your courtesy. The Commission suggest that the invitation to compete might be sent to sculptors as well as architects.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

JCMcK

March 3, 1926.

COPY

March 12, 1928.

Dear Mr. Peaslee:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 8, 1928, were pleased to consider with you the prints submitted showing the completed chapel and cloister at Fort Lincoln Cemetery, together with plans for it.

The Commission reaffirmed their former recommendation that Fort Lincoln be included as one of the projects in the development of the National Capital, as part of the Fort Drive and connecting with the Anacostia Park. Fort Lincoln should be developed as a panorama park.

The Commission approve the proposed plan for Fort Lincoln Cemetery to provide for planting of informally shaped evergreen material, in connection with monuments and without regard to lot lines. Also the chapel and cloister can be made more attractive by additional planting.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Horace W. Peaslee, Architect,
1228 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit G

Exhibit G

COPY

March 9, 1928.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting yesterday, gave consideration to the plan prepared by Mr. Horace W. Peaslee, Architect, and submitted by you, for the treatment of the Lower Garden of Meridian Hill Park. The plan was given special attention by Mr. Vitale, Landscape Architect member of the Commission, and upon his recommendation the Commission approved the plan, subject to a few minor changes, which were considered in conference with you and Mr. Peaslee.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks
of the National Capital,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit H

Exhibit H

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks
of the National Capital,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting yesterday, gave consideration to the plan prepared by Mr. Horace W. Peaslee, Architect, and submitted by you, for the treatment of the Lower Garden of Potomac Park, Mall Park. The plan was given special attention by Mr. Vitale, Landscape Architect member of the Commission, and upon his recommendation the Commission approved the plan, subject to a few minor changes, which were considered in conference with you and Mr. Peaslee.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, Yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.